The treasury of Kamid el-Loz and the Late Bronze Age settlement history of Kumidi

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Creating collective memory and falling victim to oblivion

Elisabeth Wagner-Durand

University of Freiburg / Germany



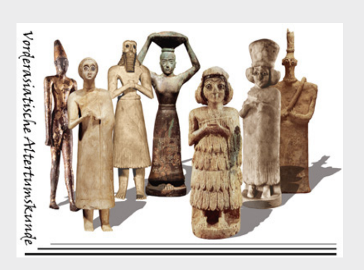


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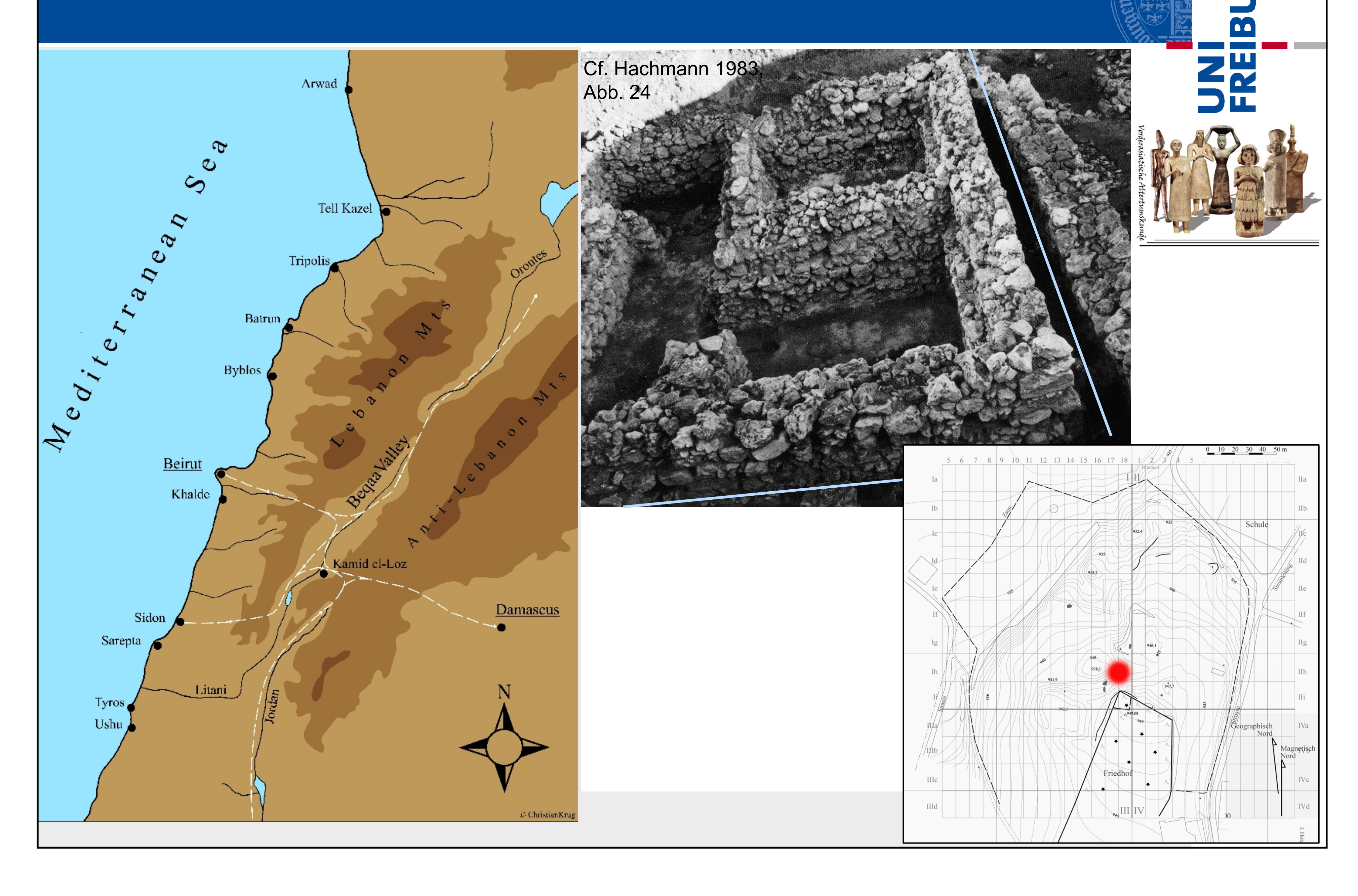
8. ICAANE Warsaw, 30.4. – 4.5.2012

Workshop: Continuation and rupture in the settlement history of Lebanon; 1.4.2012

Prof. Dr. Helen Sader / Prof. Dr. Herman Genz



Kamid el-Loz and the treasury - setting



Steps



- General theoretical observations
- Supra-regional and regional history during the periods in question
- Local settlement history of Kamid el-Loz (archaeological and philological point of view)
- Focus on the treasury and its usage history
- First interpretations
- Summary and outlook



Theoretical Biases (I)

The collective memory is a generic term for all such processes of organic, medial and institutional kind which have an impact on the mutual interference of the past and the present in social cultural contexts. (Erll 2005, 5, translation by Wagner-Durand)

The collective memory is neither an alternative to history nor an antipole to individual life memories. (Erll 2005, 5, translation by Wagner-Durand)

- Memory is shaped by visible, tangible or audible (social) experiences - experiences that (most of the time) transcend the level of the individual.
- It is possible to form the memory of group by a either shared and therefore collective experiences or by the exclusion from such experiences.

Theoretical Biases (II)

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E. Hobsbawm's: "The invention of tradition"

- a tradition only seemingly attached to a common shared past
- the success of this new "set of practices" must not be given over a longer time span
- a form of adaption, with different aims: amongst others to establish and to legitimate institutions, status and authorities, to socialize, to indoctrinate values and to establish behavioral norms
- creates (artificial) continuities hiding ruptures
- *"they [the invented traditions] normally attempt to establish continuity with a suitable historic past*." Hobsbawm 1992 , 1.
- "*In short, they are responses to novel situations which take the form of reference to old situations, or which establish their own past by quasi-obligatory repetition."* Hobsbawm 1992, 2.

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The supra-regional and regional history

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Arqa	Syria	Kamid	Egyptian Pharaohs	Hatti and Mittan(n)i
Thalmann 2008	**Cf. Von Rüden 2011**	**(Prelim. abs. dates)**	**Cf. Schneider 1996**	**selection**
BM II 1750-1550	MB IIA+ B 1800-1550	MB II (1750-1550)	End of the Middle Kingdom and the Second Intermediate Period (rule of the Hyksos)	
BR I 1550-1450	LBA I: 1550-1400	LB I (1550-1400)	Ahmose I 1539–1514 (ends Hykos rule)	
			Amenhotep I 1514–1493	
			Thutmose I 1493–1482	
			Thutmose II 1482–1479	
			Hatschepsut 1479–1458	
BR II-III: 1450-1200			Thutmose III.1458–1426 (Megiddo battle)	
			Amenhotep II 1426–1400	
	LBA IIA: 1400-1300	LB IIA (1400-1300)	Thutmose IV 1400–1390 (diplomatic alliance with Mittani (borderline Qadesh)	Artatama I
			Amenhotep III 1390–1353	Shuppiluliuma I (push back of Mittani)
			Amenhotep IV 1353–1336 (Pukhurru)	
			Meritaton 1336–1335	
	LBA IIB: 1300-1200/1150	LB IIB (1300-1200)	(…) *several pharaohs* Ramses II 1279-1213: (battle of Qadesh and the peace treaty)	Muwatalli II (…) Hattushili III (…) Shuppiluliuma II

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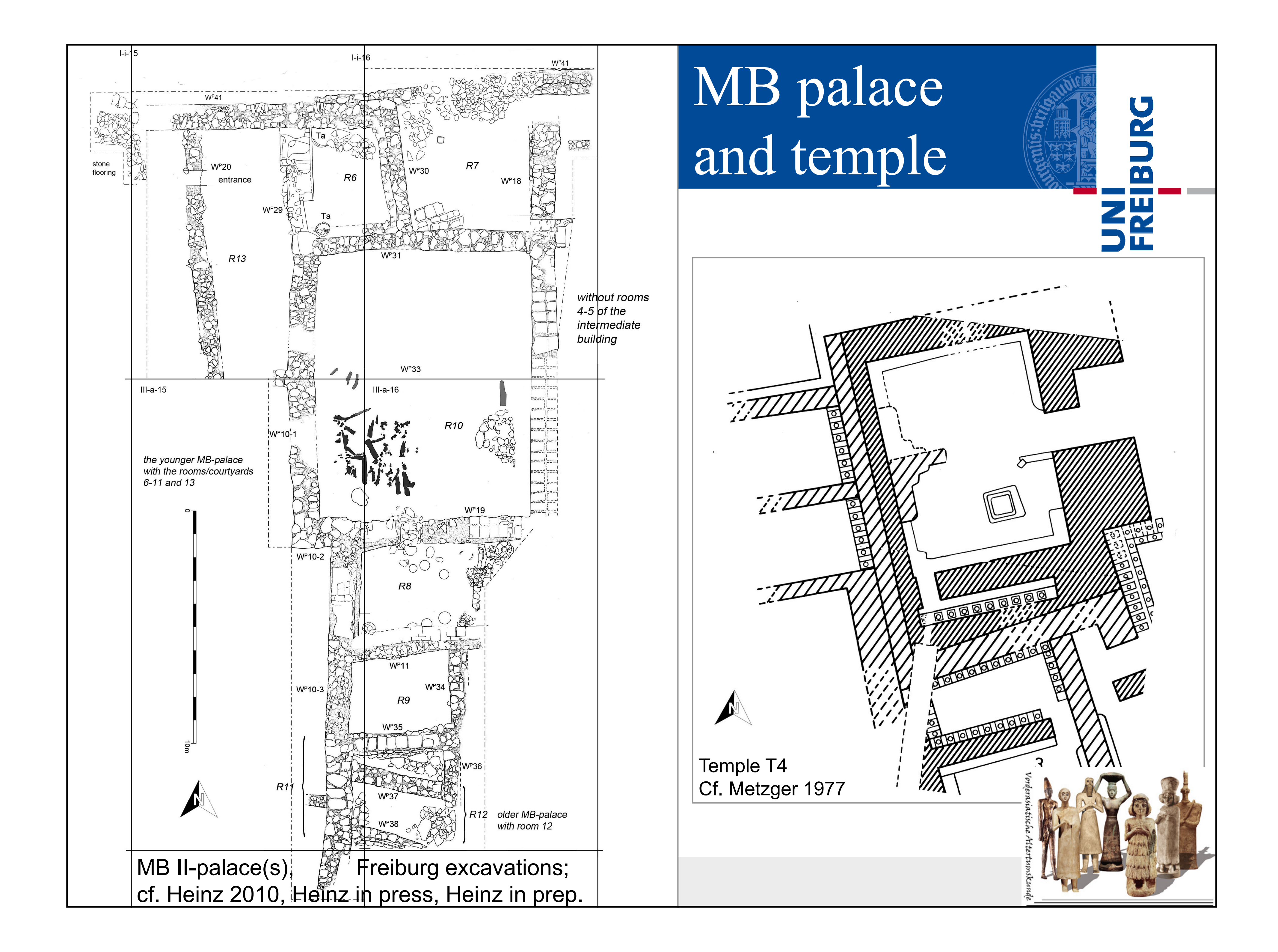
The local „history“ of Kamid – Archaeological data
The MB period

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Period	Settlement
MB I	At least two building-stages known (small excavated area, northern slope), plus new excavations results
MB II	Urbanization trend: the MB II settlement develops during a phase of urbanization witnessed by a fortification, (temple, palace unknown yet) ; accompanied by two intramural house graves
	Abandonment of settlement at least at the northern slope with settlement gap Burial ground on the northern slope, no attributed settlement known yet (De-urbanization?)
	settlement, temple(s) (T4), palace(s) (so called older* and younger MBII palace), city wall and so on (Re(?)-Urbanization) ***Destruction of the settlement***
	Intermezzo: intermediate building, traces of cultic activities in the destructed temple ***Destruction of the settlement***
LB I	Re-urbanization: palace (treasury) and temple, settlement (children graves in temple vicinity)
LB IIA	Temple and palace (treasury), settlement
LB IIB	Temple and palace , settlement

*Possible attribution of the so called older MB II palace to the first urbanization trend in the MB II still debatable

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MB palace
and temple
UNI
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I-i-15
I-i-16
Wp41
Wp41
Ta
stone
flooring
Wp20
entrance
R6
Wp30
R7
Wp18
Wp29
Ta
R13
Wp31
without rooms
4-5 of the
intermediate
building
Wp33
III-a-15
III-a-16
R10
Wp10-1
the younger MB-palace
with the rooms/courtyards
6-11 and 13
Wp19
Wp10-2
R8
Wp11
Wp10-3
Wp34
R9
Wp35
Wp36
R11
Wp37
R12
older MB-palace
with room 12
Wp38
10m
N
MB II-palace(s), Freiburg excavations;
cf. Heinz 2010, Heinz in press, Heinz in prep.
Temple T4
Cf. Metzger 1977
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MB palace area 2009



the „intermediate building“ partly dismantled

Remains of the destruction of the MB II palace

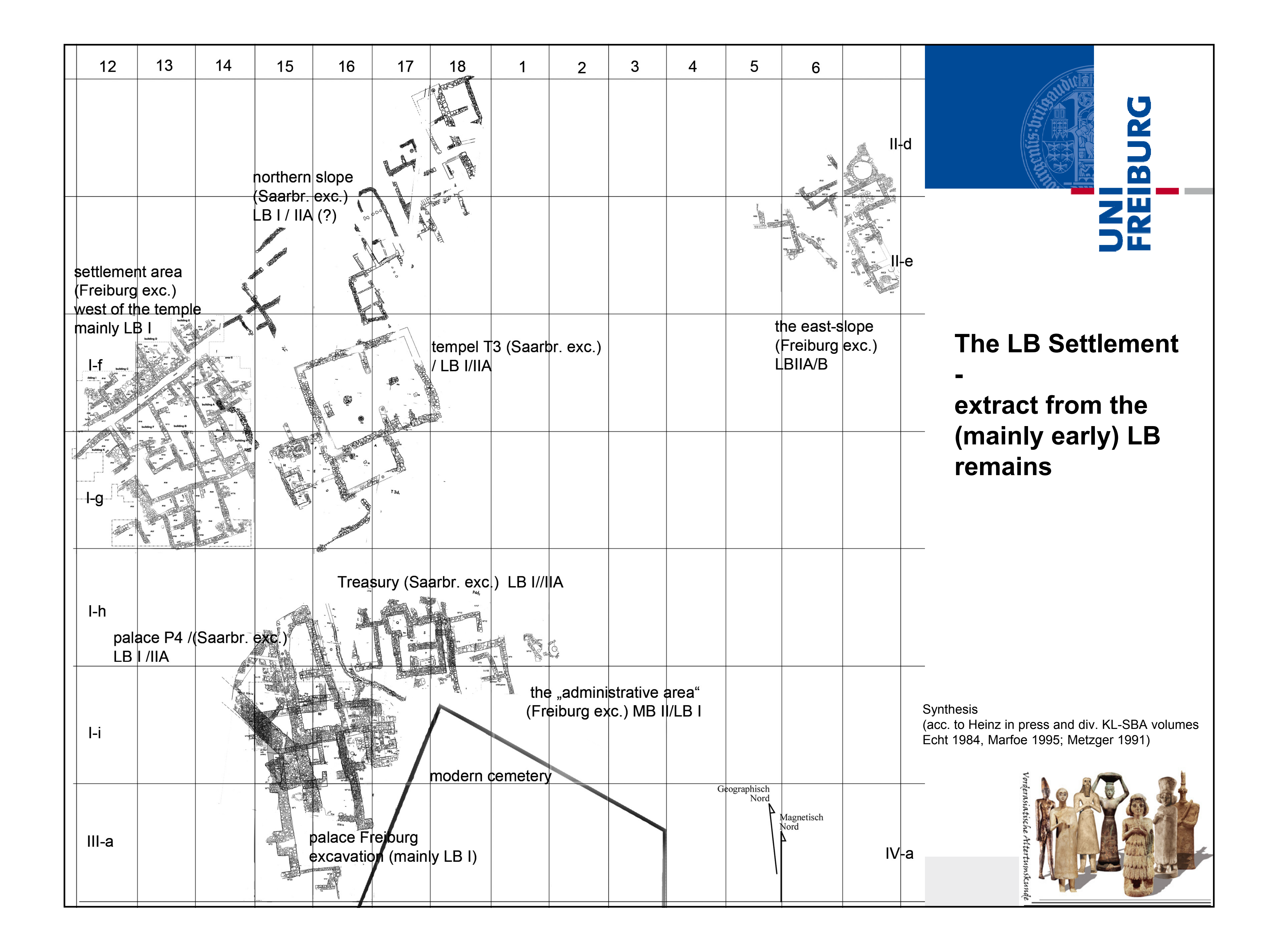


The local „history“ of Kamid – Archaeological data
The LB period



Period	Settlement
MB I	at least two building-stages known (small excavated area), plus new results
MB II	Urbanization trend: the MB II settlement develops during a phase of urbanization witnessed by a fortification, (temple, palace unknown yet) accompanied by two intramural house graves,
	De-urbanization?: abandonment of settlement at least at the northern slope with settlement gap Burial ground on the northern slope, no attributed settlement known yet
	Re(?)-urbanization: settlement, temple (T4), palace(s), city wall and so on *Destruction of the settlement*
	Intermezzo: intermediate building, traces of cultic activities in the destructed temple *Destruction of the settlement*
LB I	**Re-urbanization: palace and temple P5-P4, T3, (treasury and children graves in temple vicinity), settlement**
LB IIA	**Temple and palace (treasury) P4, T3, P3 (T2?), settlement**
LB IIB	**Temple and palace P3-P1/2, T2-T1, settlement**




12
13
14
15
16
17
18
1
2
3
4
5
6
II-d
II-e
northern slope
(Saarbr. exc.)
LB I / IIA (?)
settlement area
(Freiburg exc.)
west of the temple
mainly LB I
I-f
I-g
tempel T3 (Saarbr. exc.)
/ LB I/IIA
the east-slope
(Freiburg exc.)
LBIIA/B
The LB Settlement
-
extract from the
(mainly early) LB
remains
I-h
Treasury (Saarbr. exc.) LB I//IIA
palace P4 /(Saarbr. exc.)
LB I /IIA
the „administrative area“
(Freiburg exc.) MB II/LB I
I-i
modern cemetery
III-a
palace Freiburg
excavation (mainly LB I)
Geographisch
Nord
Magnetisch
Nord
IV-a
UNI
FREIBURG
Synthesis
(acc. to Heinz in press and div. KL-SBA volumes
Echt 1984, Marfoe 1995; Metzger 1991)
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The historical data – sources from Kumidi (besides the letters EA 116, 129, 132, 197, 198)



cf. Pruzsinszky 2008

no	find no.	Findspots, not primary	Sender and Recipient	Further in this context historical data (in short)
1	KL 69:100	P1/2-P4	(toponym Amqi)	setting uncertain
2	KL 69:277	P4a	from the pharaoh (Amenhotep III?) to Zalaia of Damascus	from Egypt; mentioning *Apiru* and *Kasha* (Nubia), possibly: reign of Amenhotep III (1390-1353)
3	KL 69:278	P4a	Unknown	either sent to Puḫuru or to Araḫattu, later than letter 2 and 4, earlier than 6, 8, 9
4	KL 69:279	P4a	from the pharaoh (Amenhotep III?) to ‘Abdi-Milki (from Byblos?)	from Egypt, mentioning *Apiru* Possibly: reign of Amenhotep III (1390-1353)
5	KL 72:600	P4a	Biridiya of Megiddo and Meta	setting uncertain, early reign of Akhenaton (1353-1336) ?
6	KL 74:300	P4	’Ilī-rābi’ (younger brother of Rib-Addu ?) sends to the *rābu* (LU$_2$.GAL) = *rābiṣu* of Kumidi	from Byblos ? see no. 9 after the rule of Araḫattu, late Amarna period
7	KL 78:200	treasury P4b	Incantation	
8	(private)	unknown	*rābiṣu* (= Puḫuru?) of Kumidi sends to the sovereign of Amurru	from Kumidi = after the rule of Araḫattu, early reign of Akhenaton (1353–1336) , (not the very first years)
9	(MET)	unknown	’Ilī-rābi’ sends to the *rābu* (LU$_2$.GAL) = *rābiṣu* of Kumidi	from Byblos? after the rule of Araḫattu, late Amarna period

Kamid letters published in a. o.: Edzard 1970, 1982, 1986, 1980;Wilhelm 1982, 1973; Arnaud 1991, Huehnergard 1996

Newly published Hachmann, R. Kāmid el-Lōz 20 Die Keilschriftbriefe und der Horizont von el-Amarna. SBA 87. Bonn 2012 (not considered here)

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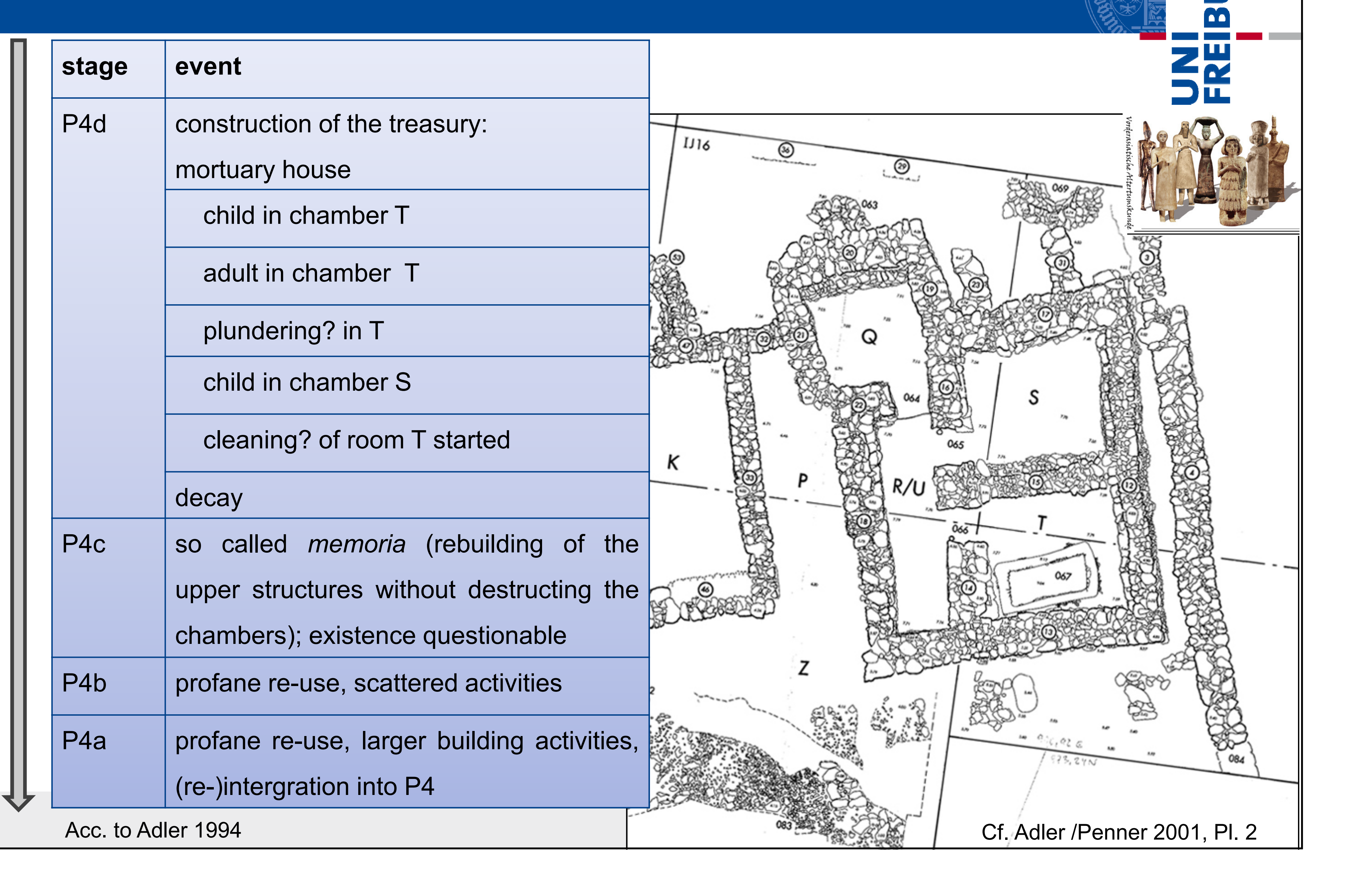


Most likely
supplementary inscription

Cf. Hachmann 1993, 49

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The treasury in detail



stage	event
P4d	construction of the treasury: mortuary house
	child in chamber T
	adult in chamber T
	plundering? in T
	child in chamber S
	cleaning? of room T started
	decay
P4c	so called *memoria* (rebuilding of the upper structures without destructing the chambers); existence questionable
P4b	profane re-use, scattered activities
P4a	profane re-use, larger building activities, (re-)intergration into P4

Acc. to Adler 1994

Cf. Adler /Penner 2001, Pl. 2

First conclusions I – Episodes of a collective memory



Stage	Event	interpretation (primary)	political situation (tentatively)	implications for the social memory
P4d	Construction of the treasury: mortuary house	Construction of an elite burial, unknown whether needed *ad hoc* or planned for the future	Ca. Tutmose III (1479-) 1458-1426 and later	yet unknown or un-preceded burial type in Kamid and surrounding = Invention of a tradition
	child in chamber T	used as a mortuary house		
	adult in chamber T	used as a mortuary house		

For the absolute dating of the treasury concerning erection and abandonment: see also Hachmann 1996 (no references or changes because of/or relating to R. Hachmann, Kāmid el-Lōz 20. Die Keilschriftbriefe und der Horizont von el-Amarna. SBA 87. Bonn 2012)



First conclusions II –
Episodes of a collective memory

Stage	**Event**	**interpretation (primary)**	**political situation (Tentatively)**	**implications for the social memory**
P4d	Construction of the treasury: mortuary house	Construction of an elite burial, unknown whether needed *ad hoc* or planned for the future	Ca. Tutmose III (1479-) 1458-1426 and later	yet unknown or unpreceded burial type in Kamid and surrounding = Invention of a tradition
	child in chamber T	used as a mortuary house		
	adult in chamber T	used as a mortuary house		
	plundering (?) in T	**Plundered and therefore desecration Or: Removing of the anonymous deceased, unintended 'destruction' of the tomb**		**disturbance? = failed approval of the "invented tradition" Or preparation for a new grave ? = Continuation of the "invented tradition"**

First conclusions III – Episodes of a collective memory





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Stage	Event	interpretation (primary)	political situation (tentatively)	implications for the social memory
P4d	Construction of the treasury: mortuary house	Construction of an elite burial, unknown whether needed *ad hoc* or planned for the future	Ca. Tutmose III (1479-) 1458-1426	yet unknown or un-preceded burial type in Kamid and surrounding = Invention of a tradition
	child in chamber T	used as a mortuary house		
	adult in chamber T	used as a mortuary house		
	plundering (?) in T	Plundered and therefore desecration Or: Removing of the anonymous deceased, unintended ‘destruction’ of the tomb	about 70 years	disturbance? = failed approval of the “invented tradition” Or preparation for a new grave ? = Continuation of the “invented tradition”
	child in chamber S	**re-used as a mortuary house**	of usage	**Continuation of the “invented tradition”**
	cleaning (?) of room T started	**preparation for a new grave**	Ca.	**Continuation of the “invented tradition” ?**
	Decay	**no further burial in the tomb, most probably no rites conducted in the room above (part of the decay)**	Amenhotep III (1390-1353) *Araḫattu residing in Kumidi?*	**slow abandonment of the mortuary house, no caretaking for the building and for the dead wished or possible = break with the new “invented tradition”**

First conclusions IV – Episodes of a collective memory





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Stage	Event	interpretation (primary)	political situation (tentatively)	possible implications for the social memory
P4c	so called *memoria*	existence questionable if so: respect and caretaking of the anonymous (?) deceased		In case of *memoria*: the names of the dead became forgotten: the deceased were part of collective of the dead/ancestors/ fading from the generational and communicative memory. = further attempt to create or attain a collective memory If not: failure to establish the invented tradition
	Decay		*Puḫurru ? (and later Biriawaza?)*	At the latest: Even the anonymous deceased became forgotten: = failure to create a collective memory
P4b and P4a	mainly profane re-use, first scattered activities then construction of more prestigious building, belonging to P4)	ultimate profanation of the area	End of the rule of Ahkenaton (1353-1336) and later	At the latest: primary function of the building spot either completely forgotten or purposeful desecration of the area = ultimate break with the "invented tradition" / final failure of the establishing of a new tradition

Summary and outlook

- Tentative application of social/collective memory concepts on the archaeological record of Kumidi
- Collective memory in the light of ruptures and continuities and vice versa:
- Broad potential: f.e. the grave finds
  - Are they regional or foreign products?
  - Do they mark a new find category in Kumidi?
  - Do they mark a new rite or custom in Kumidi?
  - Are the known from other spots in Kumidi and outside of Kumidi?
  - Do they stem from the time of the mortuary or do they stem from the past by then?
  - *Ergo: do the grave goods represent ruptures or continuities in the find history of Kumidi?*

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Thank you for your kind attention!

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